

REVIVAL FOR SURVIVAL

JUNE 4, 1983

" We are here today protesting against toxic wastes because we want to protect our children, our health and our homes, " said Arnold Cohen, of the Greater Newark Bay Coalition Against Toxic Wastes, co-ordinator of the Revival for Survival event held at Hudson Park in Bayonne, New Jersey on Saturday, June 4, 1983.

At-Sea Incineration, Inc. proposes to bring more than 5 million gallons of the most toxic chemical wastes including dioxins, PCB's, pesticides and nerve gases into the Newark area. The company's plan involves importing these wastes from half of this country and 2 Canadian provinces.

" Private corporations, like At-Sea, think they can get away with making our area even more dangerous and unhealthy. We've had enough - enough toxic accidents, enough explosions, enough toxic air pollution and enough cancer, birth defects and other health problems, " said Madelyn Hoffman of the Greater Newark Bay Coalition Against Toxic Wastes.

" It's clearly irrational for At-Sea and The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (the DEP) to claim that this plan is going to solve New Jersey's toxic waste problems. The truth is that most of the toxic wastes At-Sea will bring to the proposed site will not be from our state. This will instead make New Jersey's toxics problems much worse, exposing hundreds of thousands of people to constant air pollution and the deadly threat of catastrophic accidents, " stated Dr. Ted Flynn, of the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry.

"This area would be impossible to evacuate when accidents occur: it's very densely populated, many people speak Spanish or Portuguese as their first language, and there are few roads leading away from the area. We would be stuck," said Janet Kursen, chairperson of Bayonne Organizations Against Toxic Sites (BOATS).

"At-Sea claims that it will, of course, comply with the law. However, the DEP does not apply the laws or enforce their own regulations. We have seen in a number of cases how the DEP operates. Our experiences indicate that the DEP protects the corporations, not people. As a result of this, the DEP has lost its credibility, and we seriously doubt that an ~~ultra~~ hazardous facility like At-Sea would be regulated and monitored properly," said Katherine Dresdner, an attorney representing the Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Wastes.

"This region is already overburdened with toxic chemicals. The recent dioxin discovery in Ironbound puts us in the same league with Love Canal. In addition to the dioxin, there are more than 20 legal and illegally operating facilities in the area of Kearny, Elizabeth, Newark, Jersey City and Bayonne. We won't take anymore. Accidents will happen - they happen already now too often!" said Jim Beam, a member of the Revival for Survival Committee.

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